Town of Bedford Massachusetts



OFFICIAL WARRANT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Also included, informational Update on Annual Town Meeting.

Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 9:05 AM

Sabourin Field Bedford High School Bedford, MA

TOWN OF BEDFORD, Commonwealth of Massachusetts WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

To any of the Constables of the Town of Bedford, in the County of Middlesex.

Greetings-

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify the legal voters of said Town of Bedford, qualified to vote at Special Town Meeting for the transaction of Town affairs, to meet in said Town on the Sabourin Field—Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 9:05 AM.

Then and there to vote upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1—DEBATE RULES

To determine whether the Town will vote to adopt the following procedure for the current Special Town Meeting:

- A. The main motion having been submitted in advance, presentations having been made available for viewing before the meeting, and provided in printed form at this meeting, the main motion will be read by the Moderator and there will be no presentation.
- B. No amendment shall be accepted unless submitted in writing. A speaker presenting an amendment to an article shall be limited to three (3) minutes.
- C. Other speakers shall be limited to two (2) minutes.
- D. Town Meeting by majority vote may waive A, B, or C;

pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article sets out time limitations on presentations and debate of articles before this Town Meeting.

Recommendations:

Select Board: Approval Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be given at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 2—TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT

To determine whether the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.40, \$59, and G.L. c.23A, \$3E and \$3F, to:

- (a) Approve a Tax Increment Financing ("TIF") Agreement between the Town, Ultragenyx Corporation ("Company"), and Gutierrez Company ("Property Owner"), in the form substantially as on file with the Town Clerk, for property located at 170 Middlesex Turnpike and shown as Assessors Map 12, Parcel 17-1, which TIF Agreement provides for real estate tax exemptions over a nine (9)-year period at the exemption rate schedule set forth therein;
- (b) Authorize the Select Board to execute the TIF Agreement, and approve submission to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council ("EACC") of the TIF Agreement and Local Incentive-Only application, all relating to the project as described in the TIF Agreement, and any necessary documents relating thereto, and to take such other actions as are necessary or appropriate to obtain approval of the TIF Agreement, Local Incentive-Only application, and related submissions and to take such other actions as necessary or appropriate to implement those documents; or take any other action relative thereto.

This article would authorize a Tax Increment Financing Agreement for the planned locations of Ultragenyx Corporation ("Company"), and Gutierrez Company ("Property Owner"), at 170 Middlesex Turnpike. The agreement would permit the reduction of the new property taxes generated from the construction of a brand-new facility. The tax reduction would not be permanent. The construction of a new facility on a currently vacant lot adds value to the Town's commercial/industrial tax base. Overall, the Town would benefit by receiving increased property tax revenue from the site development.

Recommendations:

Select Board: Approval Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be given at Special Town Meeting

and you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the Town Hall and in at least three (3) other public places in the Town at least fourteen (14) days before the time of said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereof at the time and place of said meeting. Given under our hands on this 10th day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty.

The SELECT BOARD OF BEDFORD
EDWARD M. PIERCE, CHAIR
MARGOT R. FLEISCHMAN
BOPHA MALONE
EMILY J. MITCHELL
WILLIAM S. MOONAN

TOWN OF BEDFORD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING INFORMATION UPDATE SABOURIN FIELD, BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2020

The Warrant on page 1 is for a Special Town Meeting to be held within the rescheduled 2020 Annual Town Meeting. The process will be to open the Annual Town Meeting at 9:00 AM, and then temporarily recess in order to open the Special Town Meeting at 9:05 AM. The voters will then consider the one article on that Warrant. Once that business is completed, that meeting will be dissolved and we will immediately return to the articles from the March 23, 2020 ATM Warrant. Originally scheduled for March 23, 2020, the Annual Town Meeting has been postponed and continued four (4) times as required by law.

At their May 27, 2020 meeting, the Select Board voted to recommend, with the full support of the Town Moderator, that Annual Town Meeting be held on Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 9:00 AM on Sabourin Field (Bedford High School Football Field). Please note, as the Governor's order regarding large-group outdoor gatherings does not allow for tents, as they are considered a "confined space," the meeting is beginning at 9:00 AM, with registration starting at 8:00 AM, to allow for cooler temperatures. As the Town has historically done with weather-related impacts to holding Town Meeting, if the weather on the day of the meeting is deemed unsafe by the Town Moderator, Select Board, and public health and safety staff, the meeting will be postponed until a later date. Due to the early start time, public safety officials will evaluate the predicted weather on Friday, July 10, and again early on the morning of July 11, and will notify the public if it needs to be postponed. The tentative rain date is Sunday, July 12.

After consultation with the Select Board, Public Health Director, Town Clerk, Town Moderator, and the COVID-19 Task Force, the Town is confident that Annual Town Meeting can occur outside, while making the process as safe as

possible and ensuring that the democratic and legislative functions of Town Meeting remain intact. This decision followed weeks of work and site evaluations by the Select Board, Town Moderator, and the COVID-19 Task Force.

It is recommended that residents park in the Bedford High School parking lot, located at 9 Mudge Way, or by Town Hall, located at 10 Mudge Way. Handicap parking spaces closest to Sabourin Field are located on the far left side of Bedford High School near the cafeteria entrance. Additional parking is available at the John Glenn Middle School lots, but voters will only be allowed to enter the field/meeting at the field entrance nearest the High School. Upon arrival, residents will be asked to check-in with the Town Clerk by providing their name and address. If a resident is on the inactive voter list, they will need to provide a current ID.

In order to ensure the safety of all residents, all attendees will be required to wear face coverings for the entirety of Town Meeting. A mask will be provided by the Town, if you do not have one. Physically distanced chairs will be set up on the turf field, and Town staff will guide residents to their seats in order to ensure proper distancing. Staff will also assist residents with how to properly leave the field once Town Meeting has concluded. Hand sanitizer, sunscreen, and ADA-accessible restrooms will be available for all attendees.

Due to COVID-19, the warrant for Annual Town Meeting has been streamlined to ensure an efficient meeting that addresses warrant articles related to budgetary articles for Fiscal Year 2021. A streamlined warrant is the best possible way for the Town to make the process as safe and efficient as possible, while ensuring that the democratic and legislative functions of Town Meeting remain intact.

Proposed Articles for July 11, 2020 Annual Town Meeting:

- Article 2- Debate Rules
- Article 3- Consent Article
- Article 6- Revolving Funds Expenditure Limits
- Article 7- Community Preservation Budget-Fiscal Year 2021*

(*Removed all capital projects.)

- Article 23- Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Projects Plan
- Article 27- Demand Fee Increase
- Article 28- PEG Access and Cable Expense Related Budget Fiscal Year 2021
- Article 31- Operating Budgets-Fiscal Year 2021*

(*Budget reduced; for more details please visit the Town Website at www.bedfordma.gov/town-meeting)

- Article 32- Ambulance Enterprise Budget-Fiscal Year 2021
- Article 38- Free Cash

Articles that will be <u>indefinitely postponed:</u>

- Article 1- Reports of Town Officers and Committees
- Article 4- Bills of Prior Years
- Article 5- General Bylaw Amendment- Revolving Funds
- Article 7- Community Preservation Budget*

(*All capital projects.)

- Articles 8- 22- General Bylaw Amendments/ Zoning Accessory Dwelling Units
- Articles 24-26- Bond Authorizations*

(*Removed renovation at the Police Department, Land Acquisition for the Fire Station, and HVAC Improvements at the Bedford Free Public Library)

- Article 29- Supplement Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 and Articles of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting
- Article 30- Salary Administration Plan Bylaw Amendment-Classification & Wage Schedule
- Article 33- Salary Plan-Additional Funding
- Article 34- OPEB Appropriation

Article 35- Supplement Accrued Leave Fund

Article 36-300th Anniversary Stabilization Fund

Article 37- Stabilization Fund Appropriation

Please visit <u>www.bedfordma.gov/town-meeting</u> for more information on meeting registration protocols, site maps, presentation materials, and other important article and event details.

GUIDELINES FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE

The Town of Bedford respects and recognizes each citizen's right to free speech. In order to guarantee all people's right to free speech and to ensure productive civil discourse, we request that all citizens respect the following guidelines.

Show respect for others.

Discuss policies and ideas, not people.

Only one person should be speaking at any given time.

Use helpful, not hurtful language.

Speak as you would like to be spoken to.

Use courtesy titles (Mr., Ms., Sir, etc.) and ask if unsure.

Restate ideas when asked.

Use a civil tone of voice.

Agree to listen.

Respectfully hear and listen to differing points of view.

When unsure, clarify what you heard.

Realize that what you say and what people understand you to have said may be different.

Recognize that people can agree to disagree.

Speak for yourself, not others.

Speak from your own experience.

Use "I" statements ("I think that the ideas presented . . .").

Follow agreed-upon guidelines regarding who speaks when and for how long.

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Special Town Meeting Saturday, July 11, 2020 Sabourin Field, Bedford High School 9:05 AM Open to All Registered Voters